

Roxbury Community College



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# GATEWAY GAZETTE

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Photo by Wallace Fashaw

RCC students Joseph A. Williams, 23, left, and Shawn P. Barrett, 29, are among those who remain undecided on which Democratic candidate for president to support.

## RCC STUDENTS ALREADY PAYING ATTENTION TO DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

BY WALLACE FASHAW, BETSY

Hilary Castillo, 35, a radiology

## IRAQ VETERAN AT RCC

BY CHINWE UCHENDU

A year and three months after Halsey Bernard, 23, of Boston, completed his last tour of duty in Iraq, he is still suffering the effects.

"While I was there, I saw a lot of death and destruction, some of which I was part of," the Roxbury Community College student said. "During my two tours in Iraq and one tour in Afghanistan I witnessed men, children and women shot, blown up and maimed."

Bernard, a former Marine, was a machine gunner, during his four years in the military from

2001 to 2005. He received an honorable discharge in December, 2005. Bernard said re-adjusting to civilian life has been difficult.

Although he has been going to therapy, he is still troubled by post-traumatic stress and memo-



Courtesy Photo

*Former Marine Halsey Bernard reflects on life in the military.*

**"Joining the  
military is a life  
decision choice  
and affects you  
for the rest of  
your life"**

**— Former Marine  
Halsey Bernard**

ries of violence he can't forget.

"Veterans are viewed differently by society, and it takes them quite some time to adjust or fit in," he said. "Isolation brings on heartache. Promises are often made to veterans but most of them are

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## INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

BY WALLACE FASHAW

for almost four years. "It has been everything I thought it would be.

overall learning experience."

There are many new programs



# DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

BY WALLACE FASHAW, BETSY SANTANA AND CHINWE UCHENDU

An informal survey this week showed that while some students support U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton seemed to be the clear early favorite on campus.

"She has experience in a presidential situation," said **Frankie Cook**, 20, a student in the nursing program. "Barack gets on TV and never talks about his plans."

**Hilary Castillo**, 35, a radiology major, said that Clinton, "would be a good president."

**Giselle Bello**, 21, a marketing major, agreed. "Hillary – because I like her. She would make a really good president."

**Jessica Maloney**, 22, a health sciences major, did not mince words. "Hillary because she's a powerful woman. We need a woman in office. She's married to Bill Clinton and he

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# INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT

BY WALLACE FASHAW

I am sure many people are interested to know what the President of a college actually does with so much power. In an interview with President Terrence A. Gomes of Roxbury Community College, The Gazette learned about the past, present and future of RCC, his position, the faculty, students, and the steady improvement of the school.

Gomes has been the president of Roxbury Community College

for almost four years. "It has been everything I thought it would be. It has been challenging but also enjoyable," Gomes said. About what issues he would like to see and accomplish for the school and the students, Gomes replied, "For a president, you want to create the best possible learning environment. That has to be the primary goal for any president. The students come here to learn and to get a great education. We need the best faculty, staff and resources that contribute to the

overall learning experience."

There are many new programs and offerings for the college this semester. "There are newly outfitted computers in the Learning Center, Writing Center and the Library," Gomes said. "There is a new associate degree program in Radiology Technology, evening nursing programs, new certificate programs in biotechnology and biomanagement, new Intercollegiate soccer and track teams

*Continued on page 2*

## ADJUNCT USE AND ABUSE RCC depends on part-time instructors to teach courses

BY GREGORY SAINT-DICK

This year more than half of all courses at Roxbury Community College are being taught by adjunct faculty. Adjuncts are not well-paid for these assignments, and it seems to be a continuing strategy of administration to fill up classes with adjunct professors instead of hiring new full-time faculty.

When adjunct professors teach courses, they are often informed just days before the semester begins and sometimes after. This causes a number of issues that students should find interesting. There is no preparation in teaching the course because of short notice.

If you're a student who has an adjunct who has never taught the course before, who had no time to prepare for the semester, how will you possibly obtain the best education if your professor isn't fully prepared?

For those of us with financial aid, adjunct professors can't be blamed for your book arriving days after the cut off date to use your book voucher. (It is not unusual that a faculty member rejects the recommended text because of academic freedom). Academic freedom is all good when the professor informs the bookstore before the semester begins, but late orders burden students of low

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Photo by Milton Samuels

**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH**—The United States Postal Service unveiled the Ella Fitzgerald stamp at RCC on Feb. 27. Taking part in the event were, left, USPS District Manager Christopher Lynch; Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Brenda Mercomes; and Boston Postmaster Katherine Lydon, right. At the podium at the far right is Valerie Foxx, USPS Director of Diversity.



# POETS CORNER

## THE NAKED NOTE

The naked notes and sentences  
About the riddles of life  
That burden the brains

That suffer for answers,  
Black golden knowledge  
Learned from the hardened  
streets

As my feet levitated  
Barely above the ghetto,

Images like angry shadows  
Behind and in front of me  
Even though the sun  
is shining love from above,

Silhouettes dance in human form  
on concrete walls  
cracked w/ age,

The written page  
Being my greatest release  
Through moments of peace  
and meditation,

What is the destination  
Of my humble black soul  
Inside the fractured  
mysteries of this life?

Sharif Hasan O'Neal

## ADJUNCTS

*Continued from page 1*

income, forcing them to pay out of pocket if they wish to keep up in the class.

Adjunct professors also aren't required to hold office hours. This becomes a problem for students like Yvonne Rene-Miles who is currently fighting to get more tutors for the Learning Center.

"If these professors can use their time to help students in their office or alternate in the Learning Center, then more students will get the help that they need," said Ms. Miles. When asked about adjunct faculty holding office hours, she replied, "Yes, I wouldn't have these problems if more professors were available to assist students."

The problem of adjunct office hours is two-fold. One, adjunct faculty are not required to hold office hours, and two, many cannot (even if they want to) because they must work at several schools to piece together what's close to a living wage.

So why hasn't administration simply hired more full-time faculty or—better yet—promoted some of our adjunct faculty to full-time positions? Why are the adjuncts not unifying themselves on campus to get their demands met?

Ruth Kiefson, a full-time English professor and president of the RCC chapter of the Massachusetts Community College Council, the union that represents both full and part-time faculty, said: "Adjuncts cost one-third of a full-timer... By contract they are not required to hold office hours or attend department meetings."

When asked why the adjuncts do not protest, she replied, "Because they are scared. Many of them are immigrants and do not want to lose their jobs."

Kiefson said that adjuncts get paid for under-enrolled courses. When a course has ten students or less, adjunct faculty get paid per student, but full-time faculty still get their regular pay.

When a student is obviously not qualified for the course, the professor usually asks the student to drop the course and take the prerequisite, but when you are being paid per student and you depend on this course to maintain your living, some adjuncts might be pressured into keeping unqualified students in the class.

Adjuncts apparently accept this but do nothing to fight how the system is run. I tried to interview four adjunct faculty members to get their input on these issues, but all four refused to be interviewed. In frustration, a number of ad-



Photo by Manuel Gonzalez

*English Professor Ruth Kiefson heads RCC's chapter of the Massachusetts Community College Council.*

juncts have refused to help students outside of class or they instruct their students to seek help from full-time faculty, citing that they are not being paid for the time lost helping a confused student.

While administration and adjunct faculty are playing tug of war, we students have now become the rope stuck in the middle. It is essential to the well-being of the students and the dignity of this campus for the adjunct problems to be resolved because students are also suffering from it.



# A BRIGHT MEMORY

Last night, in a cold winter  
 Our soul shared a classic friendship  
 Under the smile of a blue sky.  
 Along the way, during this great adventure,  
 I can't forget your lovely conversation  
 That will never disappear in my mind.  
 I was a lonely person,  
 My heart was gobbled up  
 Away from the world of love,  
 All I knew were that birds  
 Dropped down some feathers  
 Among my fingers, to decorate  
 The butterfly that will have to bring  
 The sense of joy that settled on  
 The petals of my heart.  
 O my dear!  
 With your arrival my life  
 Has completely changed.  
 Last night your passion transported me  
 To a state beyond realities  
 Where we walked on the greener  
 Valley of the paradise.  
 You release my spirit from  
 The hell of melancholy.

You have given birth to my heart,  
 The romance that I was looking for.  
 How fair is your love!  
 How beautiful you are!  
 Behind the laurel's field  
 You are sleeping from the pass of my imagination.  
 In a twinkling of an eye  
 I am reborn again remembering  
 How your shadow covered me against  
 The blind loneliness of the night.

Jean B Mercredy

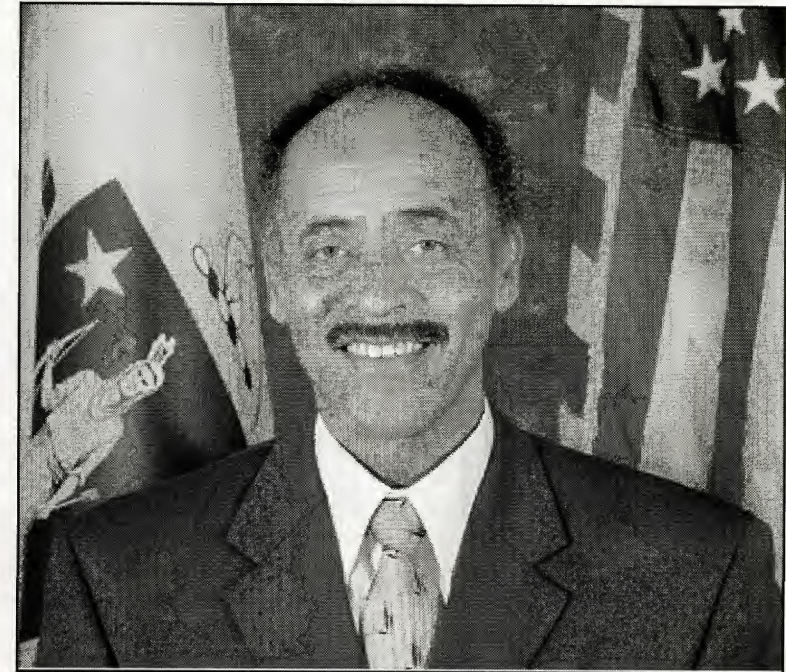
## GOMES

*Continued from page 1*

for the fall, a history of Roxbury course [we are the only school to have a course like this] and a several new online courses.”

How does one become a member of the faculty? “We conduct a comprehensive search process that involves participation of faculty, administration and staff,” Gomes said. “When the finalists are identified, the Vice President of Academic Affairs interviews them and makes a recommendation to the president. The president makes the final call. This process is followed in the hiring of all positions of the college.”

Asked what his four biggest achievements were as president of RCC, Gomes stated that before he came, “the college was on shaky grounds and was struggling. The college was in trouble with state auditors because of the financial condition and mismanagement. The college was also in trouble with the US Department of Education because of its past Financial Aid transgression, which also came under direct criticism.” Under his leadership, the college gained full reaccreditation status in 2005. “There were many improvements that had to be made in financial, administrative and academic areas in order for this to happen. Together, through the hard work



Courtesy Photo

*RCC President Terrence A. Gomes*

of faculty and staff at the college, we achieved success,” Gomes said.

The next major achievement, a high priority for Gomes, was getting the institution on firm financial footing. Gomes sees two other major achievements: formulating a five-year Strategic Plan and reopening the cafeteria in September 2003.

Many students were aware of the recent military recruitment that happened earlier this semester. Gomes stated that “an institution cannot receive federal funds unless they are allowed on campus.”

Currently there are 2,360 cred-

it students at RCC with an eight percent increase in enrollment. Gomes said that in the next five years “I would like to see a larger, more comprehensive institution that reaches out through more expanded programs and service to the community. I would also like to see more skilled graduates enter our work force.”

As president, Gomes’ duties and responsibilities make him accountable for everything at the college. If you are interested in being a president at any school, Gomes’ advice is to “be prepared for this position the best way you can, both professionally and personally.”



# OPINION

## COMMENTARY

## LETTERS



Courtesy Photo

David Palomares

BY DAVID PALOMARES

It seemed like a good idea at the time, Kerry against Bush during the 2004 Presidential election, but in the end he lost. People were concerned about his flip-flopping on issues like a vote for the war in Iraq and his war record when he

## Kerry for re-election: How about NO!

served in Vietnam. He recently announced, on the Senate floor, that he has decided not to run for president again but for another term for Congress.

It seems like any other person running for a political office would tend to hold it for a long time if they were re-elected. However, with his recent botched joke and his overexposure throughout the country after the election, it seems people have had enough, including me.

Each Senate run, with the exception of 2002, has been a close one; could it be that voters would like a different candidate, or just not him? It may seem that Kerry is somewhat a has-been who is still trying to get attention before fading away. In 2012 a new era will happen in politics as Ted Kennedy will leave after his term is up and our current generation will be the one that will elect a new leader for our state. We need new blood now.

## I got spirit! How about you?

BY RICARDO NAZAIRE

From the number of players the Roxbury Community College (RCC) basketball team has, I would say no. RCC is a local col-

around campus and asked a few questions.

Joseph Williams, one of the few players in the Roxbury Community College Tigers, is well aware of the critical status of the team.

busy with work, classes, kids and other important subjects, sports can't be a factor. A majority of the students here are too busy trying to score a 4.0 than a basket.

Students at RCC do not have

## Illegal immigration not to blame for problems in US

To the Editor:

I would like to contribute to a response to Bill Larson's letter (Oct. '06) against illegal immigration and language teachers in the last issue of the Gateway Gazette.

First, I'd like to thank Mr. Larson for expressing his views on paper where everyone can see them and think about them. This is a great way for all of us to dialogue and learn from one another.

I believe that many of Mr. Larson's views contain hidden errors, and I would like to bring two of these to light. The first error is that illegal immigration is the cause of many of the problems that we are experiencing today. Since we have a spike in problems, we should expect there to have been a spike in illegal immigration beforehand. But that is not the case. I believe that the cause of many of our problems today is a pattern of bad decisions on the part of our political and business leaders. Hopefully that will begin to turn around now that we have new leadership voted in.

Second, I'd like to challenge the notion that teachers benefit from illegal immigration any more than anyone else in our society. It is true that all people benefit from the many contributions of immigrants to our workforce, and language teachers love working with immigrants of all kinds. It is not true that teachers get a special thrill from doing



the Roxbury Community College (RCC) basketball team has, I would say no. RCC is a local college that has students from around the area. But with all the extracurricular activities available within the college, there is a huge gap in the athletics department.

Devonna Williams, the Assistant Athletic Director, made it mandatory to maintain a passing grade in order to play any sports in RCC. With Head Coach John Williams unreachable, I walked

players in the Roxbury Community College Tigers, is well aware of the critical status of the team. "There are only 7 players in the whole team," he said, "and one of them has a heart problem."

Out of all the games played, they were defeated every time. You do the math! With no team leaders or captains, the Tigers face a dilemma. RCC is not a Division One school, but sportsmanship should be acknowledged. Realizing that the students at RCC are

students here are too busy trying to score a 4.0 than a basket.

Students at RCC do not have a lack of school spirit, but a lack of time. One thing that College Survival class teaches its students is learning to prioritize. Due to lack of scholarships given in the sports division, there is limited interest. There are so many other activities in the school. You can show your school spirit in other ways.

The question still stands: I got spirit. How about you?

## Basketball Jones

BY JOSEPH WILLIAMS

This is a call to the ballers of Roxbury Community College; basketball is more than a sport, it's a motto for life! Basketball inspires hustle, persistence and a spirit of competition. Many college students are missing out on their chance to do something special push them-

selves physically and mentally. You'll notice your improvement.

Why, when the season started, was there a lack of people wanting to play? After the first half of the season, our 15-man roster dwindled to about six to seven players with injuries, some games only had five. The women's team was an army of one, meaning they only played one

game this season and just like the men's basketball team, they only had five players. The women's basketball season was cancelled after one game.

Basketball is an experience to enjoy and I hope next year you will share in it.

### LETTERS WELCOME

*All members of the RCC community are invited to submit letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically and be no longer than 250 words. We reserve the right to edit for length and to reject any submission whose content is deemed inappropriate or offensive to members of the community. Please send your submissions, along with your contact information, to: [aguerrero@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:aguerrero@rcc.mass.edu) or [jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu](mailto:jkahalas@rcc.mass.edu).*

that all people benefit from the many contributions of immigrants to our workforce, and language teachers love working with immigrants of all kinds. It is not true that teachers get a special thrill from doing mediocre work and having no one notice. In fact, I believe that teachers, like electricians, care a lot about doing a good job and having someone notice, whether that someone is in the country legally or not.

Let's not blame illegal immigrants for the many challenges facing us today. Let's work with them to make this country, and the world, a better place in which to live and work.

Sue Kalt, Ph.D.  
Language Lab Coordinator

## Bring RCC security in-house

To the Editor:

Now that we have a new, duly elected Democratic governor, who has a lot of his views I personally disagree with, there is a cause that the RCC community needs to push to the forefront. That is that security needs and deserves to be brought in-house.

I'm not saying this because I'm a union steward, and it would be a feather in my cap. I'm saying that because in my heart I know it's the right thing to do. I've asked about this subject at a few labor/management relations meetings and have been told for the good of the college it couldn't be done right now. I feel that security is a big part of the college and should share in the benefits that so many of us take for granted.

Bringing them in-house would restore my faith in the union, and bring a new respect for college amongst its neighbors. I hope people can ban together and make it happen soon. The President and the Board of Trustees should make this a priority to petition the state for funds to make this happen. The unions and student government should, instead of fighting against Wal-Mart, war, and windmills, bring as much pressure to management and any politicians they know. It's unfair for decent, dedicated people to be treated as less than American citizens.

I find it ironic that a state where if a contractor were to bid on a job for the state they would have to base it on a prevailing wage, and a state that tries to force mom and pop businesses with a couple of employees to carry insurance, while forcing community colleges to contract out security to companies that don't pay sick time, don't have cost of living raises, don't have health insurance, and don't have a retirement plan for the dedicated security employees who have been here a long time, through many companies, with little increase in pay.

William Larson  
Electrician



## GATEWAY GAZETTE

A publication of staff and students at  
Roxbury Community College

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next to student activities



# SEARCH FOR AN EARLY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS' CHILDREN IS RESOLVED

BY GINETTE ACEVEDO

The search for a qualified and experienced daycare vender has finally come to an end, thanks to Alane K. Shanks (Vice President of Administration and Finance), Michelle Howard Harrell (Early Childhood Education professor), Tesfay Ardon (Early Childhood Education professor), and Chucks Okoli (Comptroller).

Susan Leger Ferraro, founder and CEO of "Little Sprouts," has accepted and embraced Roxbury Community College's invitation to become part of our family.

Leger Ferraro will join our community in June 2007, bringing with her 25 years of experience in childcare and education, along with a concept that is more than child care. She said she will provide us with an excellent early educational program that will encourage not only emotional, cognitive, and behavioral development but also a phenomenal opportunity for academic development through their unique and nurturing ways. "Little Sprouts is here to help our children sprout from infancy and on through

since 1982 in an early educational program in Methuen and finally coming to Roxbury Community College in summer 2007.

Little Sprouts recognizes the importance of a child's education through their literacy-based program, "We Can," which is part of the U.S. Department of Education. At Little Sprouts the "No Child Left Behind Act" starts from infancy.

With a team of qualified professionals such as teachers, literacy coaches, reading specialists and a literacy director, a child's growth and development will only enhance - in a fun-loving way - throughout the stages of life.

Progress will be evaluated and monitored by professional researchers who will work with your child and find ways to improve your child's growth, alongside a team of professionals that work with all the children.

Little Sprouts won first place in 2006 for its Early First Reading Program that has been very successful and has shown its great work through children who remain at Little Sprouts and those who have transitioned to grade school. This



Photo by Betsy A. Santana

*The playground area for the Little Sprouts daycare center is located outside of Academic Building 3.*

and caregivers must punch in a special code in order to enter the facility.

hours are being considered and will be announced as soon as they are established. They will create three

on the amount of hours the child will be attending. Vouchers are welcomed.



ademic development through their unique and nurturing ways. "Little Sprouts is here to help our children sprout from infancy and on through their first few years of grade school. These are the most important years of a child's development," she said.

Little Sprouts has been around for 12 years and has six other locations throughout Massachusetts, making R.C.C. their seventh and the second community college. Little Sprouts has been running

ful and has shown its great work through children who remain at Little Sprouts and those who have transitioned to grade school. This Early Educational programs have amazingly raised over 3.5 million dollars in government grants in the past and continue to do so to give their students the best care and education in all aspects.

Child safety is not a problem at Little Sprouts. They have a state of the art security system and parents

and caregivers must punch in a special code in order to enter the facility.

Little Sprouts will be accepting children for their June 2007 openings. They will take children as young as 4-weeks-old up to 34-months-old (2.9 years) that will run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Evening

hours are being considered and will be announced as soon as they are established. They will create three preschool class rooms made up of one infant room as well as one toddler room.

They offer a student discount of up to 20 percent off the weekly rate. Rates are also based on income and

on the amount of hours the child will be attending. Vouchers are welcomed.

Finally, Little Sprouts is also offering employment opportunities to students and those in the community who are interested. A background check will be required of all those who are accepted.



Courtesy Photo

Broadcast media major Priscilla Jones likes both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

## CANDIDATES

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was a great president."

**Priscilla Jones**, 25, a broadcast media student, said she is leaning towards Obama, "but I don't know. I also like Hillary."

**Desmond Ngomba**, 41, a nursing and liberal arts major, said he would choose Obama, "but because he is black I think people wouldn't permit him to take office. If he wins, then I will support him."

Bucking the trend, **Joseph A. Williams**, 23, of Roxbury, and **Shawn P. Barrett**, 29, of Dorchester, both said they were undecided.

"Right now, I'm undecided on who I would vote for," Barrett said. "I like both of them."

"I haven't really decided yet," Williams said. "They haven't discussed their issues."

Adjunct instructor **Jonathan Bruce** also said he has not made up his mind.

"I'm undecided," he said. "I haven't seen any work from either one."

## IRAQ VETERAN

*Continued from page 1*

never fulfilled such as money for college, job security and other tons of benefits offered during the recruitment process."

Looking back, Bernard said he thinks it was the "excitement of lies," that led him to enlist at the age of 18.

"It's not a matter of fighting for your country but for government interest and politics," he said. "When the number of deaths of American

servicemen rises it is, in my opinion, just a number to the President."

The Bush administration's concern, he said, "is to recruit more servicemen."

Bernard said he is glad to be back in the United States reunited with his family and friends. He has come to recognize the importance of education, and that is why he decided to attend Roxbury Community College to enlighten his future. He is a criminal justice major, a member of the Student Government Association, president of Pizza and Politics and an anti-war activist who recently ad-

dressed students at an anti-war rally at the UMass-Boston campus.

When asked on his view towards the military in comparison with education, he said, "Education is better and safer; the military has no guarantee of living or returning back home."

"I cannot change my experience," he continued, "but it is my responsibility to inform other young men and women who are interested in joining the military. After all, it's better to fight for something than nothing. Life is more valuable than bloodshed."

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS FOR SPRING BREAK

### COLLEGIATE PRESSWIRE

Spring Break is the time college students like to let loose from the pressures of academia and have fun. Unfortunately, some students often go a little too far:

- 97 percent of college students drink during Spring Break (1)
- Nearly three out of five women had unprotected sex during Spring Break (2)
- More than 1 million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year, with 90 percent of all skin cancers caused by sun exposure.

With statistics like these, it's important to be prepared for those Spring Break overindulgences. Here are some items to have on hand for a safe vacation:

Sunscreen—will help protect your skin from sunburn, which can lead to skin cancer. Pick a sunscreen that has a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15.

Travel-size first aid kit—never know if you might need a Band Aid, gauze or first aid ointment, should also include aspirin/ibuprofen.

Condoms—the only contrac-

tive that protects against the spread of STDs and HIV - always practice safe sex.

Plan B(R) Emergency Contraception—now available over-the-counter for those 18 years or older, is a back-up birth control method that can prevent pregnancy up to 89 percent if taken within three days after unprotected sex or a contraceptive failure.

1) American Medical Association poll, March 8, 2006 <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16083.html>

2) Ibid